



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

I: Project Information

Project Title:

Conservation Commission Conservation Fund

Project Summary:

The Conservation Commission is requesting CPA funds to recapitalize the Conservation Fund for high priority, time sensitive acquisitions to permanently protect open space for conservation and agriculture purposes. The Commission is requesting \$100,000 to finance:

- 1. Soft costs related to the permanent preservation of open space; and**
- 2. Hard costs under \$20,000 per project; and**
- 3. Hard costs over \$20,000 per project, but in this category only with the express approval of the Community Preservation Committee.**

Estimated start date: July 2010 Estimated completion date: August 2011

CPA Program Area (check all that apply):

☒ Open Space

☐ Historic Preservation

☐ Community Housing

☐ Recreation

II: Applicant/Developer Information

Contact Person: Wayne Feiden, as staff contact for Conservation Commission

Organization (if applicable): Northampton Conservation Commission

Mailing Address: 210 Main Street, City Hall, Northampton, MA 01060

Daytime phone #: 413-587-1265

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E-mail address: WFeiden@NorthamptonMA.gov

III: Budget Summary

Total budget for project: \$200,000 (assuming typical leveraging and in-kind match)

CPA funding request: \$100,000

CPA request as percentage of total budget: 50%

Applicant's Signature:

Wayne Feiden

Date Submitted:

February 5, 2010

Project Narrative

Project Addresses Community Preservation Criteria

- Acquisitions for permanent protection of a range of critical and natural plant and animal habitats, including wetlands, rare or endangered species habitat.
- Preservation of open space parcels that defines Northampton's character, including parcels that limit the expansion of development into previously rural areas.
- Protection of forestland, wetlands and the rural character of outlying areas.
- Protection of critical prime agricultural land.
- Otherwise fulfill objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Project Serves Community Needs

This project protects sensitive ecological resources, prime agricultural farmland, and invaluable historic landscapes. All of the resources are desperately needed in the community and are identified in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Project has Community Support

This is the fourth Conservation Fund request. Earlier rounds have funded some of the most widely supported community projects in the City such as:

1. Deposit funding for Bean/Allard, without which the project could not have proceeded.
2. Soft costs for the Bleiman parcel
3. Soft costs for the Beaver Brook/Broad Brook parcel, without which the city could not of secured an Option or obtained other funding or purchased the land.
4. Hard costs for the 360 King Street/Valley Market expansion of the Fitzgerald Lake, which leveraged large contributions from the Broad Brook Coalition and which secured a great price since the city could move fast.

Success Factors

The success of this project will be measured by:

- The purchase of the critical open space parcels.
- Unique opportunities to take advantage of lower prices and opportunities.
- Opportunities to leverage funds, staff time and community support.
- Opportunities to build community partnerships.

Maintenance

- Conservation uses require very little maintenance, but will be maintained by the Conservation Commission and its staff support.

Project Budget

Acquisition and Soft Costs:

Staff, volunteer, and community partnership time to build projects \$ 25,000

Soft costs and hard costs \$175,000

Total **\$200,000**

2010 Community Preservation Act Request **\$100,000**

Project Timeline

CPC review and vote.....June 2010

City Council vote.....July 2010

Project expenditures.....July 2010-August 2011

Feasibility

With two decades of open space preservation and the successful completion of three CPA funded conservation fund rounds, the Conservation Commission has demonstrated the ability to successfully complete these projects at a lower cost than almost any other municipal open space preservation effort in the Commonwealth.